THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF

St Thomas More and St Joseph the Worker

working in partnership with the Catholic Chaplaincy of Warwick University

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both parishes are part of the Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham Reg Charity No 234216

1st September 2024

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St Thomas More

112 Knoll Drive Stivichall

COVENTRY

CV3 5DE

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Mass: Page 7 Readings: Page 126 Psalter Week: 3 Weekday Cycle: Year 1 Sunday Year: B

CV4 7DU

Saturday 31st	TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	4.15pm	STM	Confessions		
		5.00pm	STM	Vigil Mass	Frank Thompson (RIP)	
Sunday 1 st Sept		9.00am	STM	Mass	Emrys Evans (RIP B'day)	
		11.00am	SJW	Mass	Dolores Connolly (RIP)	
Monday 2 nd	Feria			No Mass		
Tuesday 3 rd	St Gregory the Great	10.00am	SJW	Mass	Maureen Glendon (RIP)	
		11.30am	STM	Requiem Mass for Philomena Ledwidge (RIP)		
Wednesday 4 th	St Cuthbert	11.00am	STM	Mass 'n' Mingle	Jean Sorbie (Ints)	
Thursday 5 th	Feria			No Mass		
Friday 6 th	Feria	10.00am	STM	Mass	Sypros Karekla and I Hatchadourian (RIP)	
				followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament		
Saturday 7 th Sunday 8 th	Our Lady	10.00am	SJW	Mass	Betty Donovan (Ints)	
				followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament		
	TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	4.15pm	STM	Confessions		
		5.00pm	STM	Vigil Mass	Dcn Tony and Sheila Colby (Anniv)	
		9.00am	SJW	Mass	Helen McDonnell (1st Anniv)	
		11.00am	SJW	Mass	Philip Collins (RIP)	

Our readings teach us about the importance of following God's commands, acting on His word, and understanding true purity. These reflections will help us dive deeper into these teachings and apply them to our lives.

In the First Reading, Moses speaks to the Israelites, urging them to follow God's laws. He emphasises that by doing so, they will show wisdom and understanding. This wisdom will set them apart from other nations and bring them closer to God. God's laws are not just rules. They are a guide for living a good and holy life. When we follow them, we receive many blessings and experience God's closeness. We should take Moses' message to heart. By obeying God's laws, we show our love and respect for Him. This obedience also brings peace and order to our lives.

St James in the Second Reading reminds us that all good things come from God. He is unchanging and always gives us what we need. We must embrace His word and act on it. Hearing God's word is not enough. We must put it into action. True faith is shown by our deeds, especially in caring for those in need. James also teaches that pure religion means helping the vulnerable and keeping ourselves pure. This shows our commitment to God and His teachings. By acting on His word, we live out our faith every day.

In the Gospel, St Mark tells us about a time when Jesus was challenged by the Pharisees. They were focused on external rituals, like washing hands, rather than the heart. Jesus explained that true purity comes from within. Our thoughts and actions show our true selves. Evil thoughts and actions come from within and defile us. Jesus teaches that what matters most is our inner purity. We should focus on our hearts and minds, not just external practices. By keeping our thoughts and actions pure, we live in a way that honours God. This inner purity is what truly pleases Him.

Let us pray. Lord, help us to obey Your laws, act on Your word, and keep our hearts pure. Guide us in showing our faith through our actions. Amen.

WELCOME to Mass today. A special welcome to anybody joining us for the first time. Please introduce yourself, and if you are able, stay for refreshments after the Mass.

WE PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF Philomena Ledwidge, Elizabeth Keane (Requiem Mass at SJW on 27th September), **Fr Peter Blundell** and **Fr Terry McGuckin** (Requiem Mass at Christ the King on 5th September, 12noon) together with all who have died recently. We pray for them and their families at this time. May they rest in peace.

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK AND UNWELL: Nigel Wooltorton, Darrel Cemm, Carol Ann Little, Edith Whatling, Margaret Eason, Madge Ward, Heather Walton, Jay Veeman, Pat Farr, Phil Sands, Margaret Kelly, Joanna MacKinnon, Hilary Hanson, Debbie Colby, Monika Tokarska-Hosoi, Joan Theaker, Veronica Hammond, Peter Kennedy, Alice Rowland, John Walker, Pauline Cullinane, Beatrice Upham, Maureen Pearson, Peter Carvell, Sheila Jenkins, Lillian Chapman, Irena Bienek, Georgina Brannigan-Smith, Ann Kenny, Rose Warburton, Keelin Treharne, Josie McElroy, David O'Grady and Joan O'Leary.

SEPTEMBER is traditionally the month dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows. The Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows is kept on September 15th. The day before, September 14th, is the Feast of the Triumph of the Cross. Like many of the lesser-known Marian feasts, the Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows is tied to an event in the life of her Son. On September 14, we celebrate the instrument of Christ's victory over death; and the next day, we remember the suffering of Mary as she stood at the foot of the Cross and witnessed the torture and death of her Son. We are also reminded of Simeon's words to Mary (Luke 2:34-35) at the Presentation of the Lord—that a sword would pierce her soul. Through these prayers for September, we can unite ourselves to Mary in her sorrow, in the hope that we will one day also share her joy in the triumph of her Son.

NEW BEGINNINGS: September is a time of new beginnings for many people. A new academic year will begin for all involved in education, so we pray for pupils and staff, and all those who work and support the life of our schools. We pray also for those starting at University and moving away from home. We also pray for Douglas Grantham and Filip Gronaiewicz who commence their formation as Seminarians for the Archdiocese of Birmingham at the Royal English College, Valladolid.

CHURCH FLOWERS in September will be created using no bought flowers and more natural greenery and foliage sourced from gardens, therefore lowering our carbon footprint, etc. As we begin the Season of Creation and we think more about the world which God has created, this is a lovely way to appreciate the beauty of creation which God provides in the natural world.

SEVEN DAY CANDLES: To sponsor a candle, please bring your £5 donation to the sacristy. Please note that only one intention per candle can be booked. The intention for the candles will be displayed on the notice board at STM and SJW.

OUR PIETY STALLS are open after all Masses.

KINGDOM OF GOD PRAYER GROUP will resume their weekly gatherings on Monday 2nd September.

AFTERNOON TEA for Young Carers and CAFOD on Saturday 14^{th} September 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm in MRR. Tickets priced at £15 via Mandy Wooltorton at STM. Please see poster for more details.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY STM will begin on 8th September during the 9.00am Mass at STM. Our thanks to everyone who leads the liturgy for the children/families each week.

JOINT FACEBOOK PAGE: The Facebook page can be found by searching for 'Catholic Parishes of St Thomas More and St Joseph the Worker.' If you are a user of Facebook and haven't already, please do 'like' our page and share with family and friends.

HARVINGTON HALL PILGRIMAGE: The coach will leave STM Car Park THIS Sunday morning at 11.45am. If you are attending the Mass, you will need to bring a chair to sit on and, if you wish, a packed lunch. There are 8 spaces still available on the coach, so if anyone would like to go, please let us know as soon as possible. Coach spaces are £20 per person, which will be collected on the day. Cars can be left at STM.

THE SEASON OF CREATION begins on September 1st and continues to October 4th, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. This is the Ecumenical celebration we hold each year, instituted by Pope Francis back in 2015. The theme for 2024 is 'to hope and act with creation'. St Paul in his letter to the Romans, pictures earth as Mother, groaning as in childbirth, and St Francis understood this when he referred to the Earth as our sister and our mother in his Canticle of Creatures. The times we live in show that we are not relating to the earth as a gift from our Creator but rather as a resource to be used. Our unsustainable actions harm the earth, causing the climate crisis, loss of biodiversity, human suffering as well as Creation's suffering.

At STM, a set of Stations of Creation have been created and are on display in the corner of church. You will also find more information about the Season of Creation. You can also visit the website www.https://seasonofcreation.org/

HOLY CROSS ACADEMY MAC MASS will be held at STM on Friday 13th September. At this Mass, we will welcome Year Six pupils from St Thomas More, Christ the King, St Elizabeth's, St Augustine's and St John Vianney Primary Schools together with pupils from Bishop Ullathorne and Cardinal Newman Secondary Schools. In previous years, the school communities have gathered for Mass to celebrate the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross on 14th September. We pray for pupils and staff, and all those who work and support the life of our schools that through their teaching and learning they may foster communities that radiate the image, likeness and message of Jesus Christ himself.

ARYPT FUNDRAISER: The sponsored walk concluding with 'Mass in the Malverns' will be taking place on Saturday 21st September. For more information about the event, please see the details at the back of both STM and SJW or email Richard at arypt2022@gmail.com

LIVE SIMPLY TIP OF THE MONTH: Live in solidarity with those in poverty by choosing Fairtrade! When you choose Fairtrade, you help ensure farmers receive a fairer price for what they grow. As a Fairtrade Parish we use Fairtrade tea, coffee, sugar and other Fairtrade products at church events. Fairtrade Fortnight is 9th – 22nd of September 2024.

MARCH4LIFE: All Souls have organised a coach to go to March4Life in London on Saturday 7th September, setting off at 9.45am (preceded by Mass at 9am for those who can). For families, children going with parent(s) travel free. As the coach is booked anyway, if you do know of anyone who wants to come, but can't afford it, please get them to get in touch with All Souls Parish and they will help them out.

BOOKING MASSES: There will be one diary for booking Masses at both churches and we ask people to use the envelopes available at the back of both STM and SJW. Please fill in all the required information and hand it to Fr Simon or push through the STM Presbytery letterbox. We ask that Masses be requested three months in advance of your required date. Please remember that preferred dates cannot be guaranteed as someone else might have asked for a particular date before you, but the nearest date will be offered.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING on Friday 27th September from 10.00am until late. Claire and Mary invite you to their annual fundraiser for MacMillan at 192 Kenpas Highway. All welcome.

BLESSING OF GRAVES will take place at Canley (6th October, St Paul's (13th October), London Road (20th October) and Lenton's Lane (27th October). All at 3.00pm.

LOURDES PETITIONS: Deacon David and June Palmer are going to Lourdes on 13th September with HCPT. They are happy to take any petitions people may have and leave them to be prayed for in the Grotto there. Please give them to Deacon David, June or Fr Simon by 10th September.

READERS AT MASSES may be interested in a free refresher programme that is being offered online in two sessions from 3-4pm on Sunday 13th and 20th October. The first session focuses on ministry and the Word and the second focuses on the Lectionary itself and strategies to promote Scripture in parish life. Places for this event can be booked by emailing fr.allen.morris@rcaob.org.uk

PARISH WALK: The next walk will take place on Sunday 15th September along Coventry Canal from Coventry Arena to Hawksbury Junction, with refreshments at the Greyhound Inn, and back. 3 miles / 1.25 hours plus extra for refreshments. Meet at Coventry Station for the 12.56pm train to Coventry Arena station or meet at Coventry Arena station at 13.05pm. For more information, please see the poster at the of both churches or email stm.walkinggroup@gmail.com

WORLD WEEK FOR PEACE IN PALESTINE AND ISRAEL takes place from $16^{th} - 22^{nd}$ September. During this week, there will be two Holy Hours held in SJW (17^{th} September) and STM (19^{th} September) where we can come together to pray for peace in these areas of conflict. Each year the World Council of Churches invites us to join together to work for a just peace for all in Palestine and Israel. We are encouraged to educate ourselves and others, to pray and to take action for justice. The focus is Gaza, and the theme is 'Whatever you did ... you did for me.' As part of the week, there will also be an online prayer meeting at 7.00pm on Wednesday 18th September. For more information, please visit the World Council of Churches website.

CHURCH CLEANERS: At both STM and SJW we have a small but faithful and dedicated band of cleaners who work tirelessly each week to ensure that our churches are spotlessly clean. We are appealing for a few extra hands to join the cleaning teams on Saturday morning at STM and Sunday morning at SJW. If you would be able and willing to become a 'Holy Duster' at either STM or SJW, please let us know

GOING INTO HOSPITAL If you or a relative are going into hospital, please be sure to tell the ward staff you are a Catholic and would like to see the Catholic Chaplain. Please also notify the Parish Clergy, so a visit, either by them or the Chaplain can be arranged.

AN EXHIBITION OF THE SHROUD OF TURIN is coming to St Patrick's, Deedmore Road, Coventry, CV2 2HW. Visitors will be able to see a full-sized replica of the Shroud of Turin as part of a fascinating exhibition which will be on display from 1st - 15th September. The Shroud is a linen cloth that bears a faint image of the front and back of a crucified man. Many believe it is the burial shroud used to wrap the body of Jesus after his crucifixion, and upon which his bodily image is miraculously imprinted. The exhibition will also feature other displays and detailed information boards, which cover evidence revealed by historical and scientific research, explaining how the Shroud's image and bloodstains align with Gospel accounts. The exhibition will be open on Tuesdays to Fridays 5.00pm – 7.00pm, Saturdays from 12noon – 4.00pm and after Sunday Mass, from about 11.30pm – 1.00pm.

NEWMAN CIRCLE will hold their Annual Mass and Social on 10th September at 12 noon and a Circle Talk on Tuesday 24th September at 7.30p.m. Veronica Whitty will speak on: 'Estelle White, Composer and Hymn Writer' in the MRR at STM.

QUARANT'ORE EUCHARISTIC FESTIVAL at St Thomas More Church from Thursday 3rd – Sunday 6th October 2024. Following the positive feedback and comments last year and to link in with the Adoremus National Eucharistic Festival taking place later this month at Oscott College, we shall be holding another Quarant'ore Festival at STM.

Quarant'ore is a tradition which is believed to have begun in Italy during the 16th century in honour of the forty hours during which the Body of Our Lord rested in the tomb. The Forty Hours Devotion invites us to watch before the Lord, and in this extended period of adoration to offer, in his presence, our prayer for the Church and its mission.

Over the coming weeks there will be sign-up sheets for people to volunteer for this. During the forty hours, there must be two people present in church to ensure the safety of the Blessed Sacrament. Others, if not signed up, are welcome to come and spend time with the Lord. The Quarant'ore will also be interspersed with 'themed' Holy Hours, Morning and Evening Prayer and the Holy Rosary. It will also be possible to buy votive candles for intentions that will be placed around the Blessed Sacrament for the Forty Hours.

SIDE CHAPEL DOOR at STM will be open to access the Side Chapel for private prayer during the day. It will usually be open from around 9.30am – 5.00pm, except on Monday's.

LARGE PRINT NEWSLETTERS are available by request. If you would like one printing, please speak to Fr Simon.

ANSWERPHONE MESSAGES: A few people have said they have phoned the Presbytery but did not receive a call back. Lola – the cat – hasn't been trained to answer the phone yet, so if you do call, and get no answer, please make use of the answerphone facility so your call can then be returned at the earliest convenience.

awonderful opportunity for us to be still and quiet in the presence of the Lord. In both STM and SJW there is a weekly opportunity for this. St Alphonsus Liguori once wrote, 'know also that you will probably gain more by praying fifteen minutes before the Blessed Sacrament than by all the other spiritual exercises of the day. True, Our Lord hears our prayers anywhere, for He has made the promise, 'Ask, and you shall receive,' but He has revealed to His servants that those who visit Him in the Blessed Sacrament will obtain a more abundant measure of grace.' Adoration takes place on Friday mornings at STM and Saturday mornings at SJW.

ADOREMUS NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS will take place Oscott College on Saturday 14th September 2024. It has been scheduled to coincide with the 53rd International Eucharistic Congress in Quito, Ecuador. Although this is not a public event, we are encouraged to spend time before the Blessed Sacrament on this day, uniting in prayer before the Lord. Please consider coming along to our usual slots of Adoration on Saturday morning at SJW and Saturday evening at STM on this day.

GROUNDS HELP NEEDED at STM. We are very fortunate to have a volunteer to mow the lawns and trim the edges. If this is something you could help with, even occasionally, please speak to Fr Simon.

'RING AND RIDE' From time to time, we come across parishioners who are unable to get to Mass for a few weeks following surgery or other reasons. It would be good to have a handful of drivers who we can call upon to pick these parishioners up and bring them to Sunday Mass, if they are able and would like to attend. If you are happy to be part of such a team, please email or speak with Fr Simon.

2024 CENSUS FORMS are available at the back of both STM and SJW for anyone who is new to the parish or who has not yet updated their details.

SAFEGUARDING: The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies and procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are Claire Rutter and Amanda Kelly at STM and Henry Whitney at SJW. They can be contacted using the emails below or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted by calling 0121 230 6240 or by emailing safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern.

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES Barbara Rees, Sheila Colby, Elizabeth Clark, Carys Evans, Francesco Niro, Kathleen "Kitty" Norris, Teresa Moon, Maria Raftery, Ronald Bowen, Margaret Johnston, Eileen Harold, Richard Skelly, Mariuccua Holroyd, Joseph Meade, Helen McDonnell, Cicely Fawcett, Martin Langdon, Bridget Gannon, Elizabeth McCarthy, Mieczyslaw Kolodynski, Caroline Fitzpatrick, Marie Sumbi, Mabel Barnacle, Dorothy Redmond, Isabella Quinn, Nora Smethurst, Ruth Waters, Peter Simpson, Jenny Lavelle, Violet Foulkes, Noel Bryan, Margaret Murphy, Sylvia Harland, Maria Mullens, Catherine Ford, Marjorie Kelly, John Harrison, Lauren Cook-Robinson, Thomas Falconer, Andrew Flynn, Mary Burke, William Long, Mary Daly, Charles Berry, Helen Purdie, Helen Ryan, Joseph Ijoma, Eileen Norris, Sylvia Jenkins, Sidney Hayes, Margaret Dowson, Helen Martin, Gerry Donegan, Neil Illston, Ann White, Deacon Tony Colby, Albert McKay, Johanne Powell, Benjamin Phillips, Louis Heckelbout, Agnes Newbold, Brian Connor, James Grant, Lilian Chatwin, Sarah Clarke, Hazel Clifford, Louis Owens, Jenny Dunne, Rose Connor, Vincent Donnelly, Thomas Lally, Emily Pratt, Charles Gallagher, Theresa Young, Catherine Conroy, Josie Daly, Kevin Brown, John Purdue, Eileen Butler, Norma Wilson, Douglas Wheeler, James McParland.

	STM	31 st Aug	5.00 pm	Ashford and Quinita
		1 st	9.00 am	Debbie Middleton
~		7 th	5.00 pm	Clare Staines
8		8 th	9.00 am	Marisa Gunn
Σ		14 th	5.00 pm	Monika Rozanski
I₩		15^{th}	9.00 am	Joe Dore
▏ᇜ		21 st	5.00 pm	Janet Ward
S		22 nd	9.00 am	Sonia Carvell
6		28 th	5.00 pm	Mandy Crilly
K		29 th	9.00 am	Noreen Thornhill
24	Oct	5 th	5.00 pm	Mary Wilson
		6 th	9.00 am	Maureen Porter
READERS FOR SEPTEMBER	SJW	1 st	11.00 am	Joan
_		8 th	11.00 am	Lorraine
		15th	11.00 am	Vivienne
		22 nd	11.00 am	Claudia
		29 th	11.00 am	Maria
	Oct	6 th	11.00 am	John

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

FUR TOUR DIART:	
1st September	Harvington Hall Pilgrimage
1 st – 15 th September	Turin Shroud Exhibition
7 th September	March4Life
9 th – 22 nd September	Fairtrade Fortnight
10 th September	Newman Circle Mass
13 th September	Holy Cross MAC Mass
14 th September	Baptism Preparation Course
14 th September	Afternoon Tea at STM
15 th September	Walking Group Walk
16 th – 22 nd September	Week for Peace
17 th September	Holy Hour for Peace at SJW
19 th September	Holy Hour for Peace at STM
21st September	ARYPT Malvern Walk
24 th September	Newman Circle Talk – MRR
27 th September	MacMillan Coffee Morning

COLLECTIONS:

STM Parish: £785.00 **SJW Parish:** £150.00

Thank you for all you give and your continued generosity.

SECOND COLLECTIONS IN SEPTEMBER

15th September Catholic Evangelisation 22nd September Fr Hudson's Society

ST THOMAS MORE Parish Administrator and Room Bookings

Amanda Kelly admin.stm.covty@rcaob.org.uk

Safeguarding Reps

Claire Rutter and Amanda Kelly sg.stm.covty@rcaob.org.uk Giving and Gift Aid

Tony Curristan ga.stm.covty@rcaob.org.uk

ST JOSEPH THE WORKER

Safeguarding Rep

Henry Whitney sg.stjoseph.covty@rcaob.org.uk Giving and Gift Aid

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